

SPOTTED at last night's "Ertegun Jazz Night" at the Turkish Ambassador's residence, featuring Sean Jones & His All-Stars and sponsored by the Turkey-U.S. Business Council: Ben's Chili Bowl owner Virginia Ali, former NPR Host Robert Siegel, Washington Diplomat's Victor Shibley & Anna Gawel, Washington Life's Kevin Chaffee, Georgetown University's Maurice Jackson, African American History Museum's Dr. Dwandalyn Reece, music historian John Hasse, powerhouse Turkish lobbyist Lydia Borland, Turkish Coalition of America president Lincoln McCurdy, Turkish Central Bank's Mustafa Ayca, Mercury's Morris Reid, Suheyra Tayla, Brent Petrone, Katya Myagkova, and Dan Wilson. NPR story on the Embassy's historic role in desegregating DC jazz is here:

<https://wamu.org/story/19/03/18/it-was-a-social-revolution-the-turkish-embassys-surprising-role-in-desegregating-d-c-jazz/>

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As promised, here is a write up of last night's Ertegun Jazz Night. Some great photos from the event are here: <https://mercuryllc.box.com/s/xdc9xn8i21avfk2p5ocxieji6okulouz>. Let me know if you'd like to see the full program as well and I can send it along.

DC leaders in government, diplomacy, culture and business gathered last night for the "Ertegun Jazz Night" at the Turkish Ambassador's residence to celebrate International Jazz Day and honor the legacy of the Erteguns – the family of the former Turkish Ambassador that used jazz to stand against the unconscionable segregation laws of the time.

The performance featured Sean Jones and His All-Stars, who played a repertory of classics by the greats, including Duke Ellington, John Coltrane, Ray Charles, and Dizzy Gillespie – all of whom either played in the very same room in the 40s and 50s or recorded with Ahmet Ertegun, the Ambassador's son and founder of Atlantic Records.

Speakers reflected on the historic role of Ambassador Munir Ertegun and his sons Mehmet and Nesuhi – their contributions to jazz as a whole, as well as their fight against the strict segregation laws dividing DC:

- Ambassador Serdar Kilic, Turkish Ambassador to the United States
- Virginia Ali, Honorary Guest, co-founder and owner, Ben's Chili Bowl
- Maurice Jackson, Georgetown University history professor and co-editor of DC Jazz: Stories of Jazz Music in Washington, DC
- Dr. John Edward Hasse, Music historian and Curator Emeritus of American Music at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History

Notable Quotes:

- "This is a hallowed ground for music and tolerance." – John Edward Hasse
- "Duke Ellington... and the great Louis Armstrong, they came here. The Ertegun Family wanted jazz music to help desegregate this city." – Maurice Jackson
- "I'm so proud you've been able to bring everyone together through music." – Virginia Ali

Other among those in attendance included: former NPR Host Robert Siegel, Washington Diplomat's Victor Shibley & Anna Gawel, Washington Life's Kevin Chaffee, Georgetown University's Maurice Jackson, African American History Museum's Dr. Dwandalyne Reece, music historian John Hasse, powerhouse Turkish lobbyist Lydia Borland, Turkish Coalition of America president Lincoln McCurdy, Turkish Central Bank's Mustafa Aycan.

Let me know if this is something you can use in your International Jazz Day write-up.

All the best,  
Katya

*Disseminated by Mercury Public Affairs, a registered foreign agent, on behalf of the Embassy of Turkey. More information is on file with the Dept. of Justice, Washington, DC.*

In case you're interested in a piece, here's a write-up of last night. You can also see some of the great photos here: <https://mercuryllc.box.com/s/xdc9xn8j21avfk2p5ocxieji6okulouz>.

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Warmly,  
Katya

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